

- Promote sectoral collaboration in energy, transportation, financial services, technology, and other areas to facilitate business; and invest in our people;
- Reduce the costs of trade through the efficient movement of goods and people; and
- Enhance the stewardship of our environment, create a safer and more reliable food supply while facilitating agricultural trade, and protect our people from disease.

Next Steps

We will establish Ministerial-led working groups that will consult with stakeholders in our respective countries. These working groups will respond to the priorities of our people and our businesses, and will set specific, measurable, and achievable goals. They will identify concrete steps that our governments can take to meet these goals, and set implementation dates that will permit a rolling harvest of accomplishments.

Within 90 days, Ministers will report back to us with their initial report. Following this, the groups will report on a semi-annual basis. Because the Partnership will be an ongoing process of cooperation, new items will be added to the work agenda by mutual agreement as circumstances warrant.

Through this Partnership, we will ensure that North America remains the most economically dynamic region of the world and a secure home for our people in this and future generations.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Message on the Observance of Easter 2005

March 24, 2005

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

I send greetings to all those celebrating Easter, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through His sacrifice and triumph over

death, Christ lifted the sights of humanity forever. In His teachings, the poor have heard hope, the proud have been challenged, and the weak and dying have found assurance. Today, the words of Jesus continue to comfort and strengthen Christians around the world.

During this holy season, we thank God for His blessings and ask for His wisdom and guidance. We also keep in our thoughts and prayers the men and women of our Armed Forces—especially those far from home, separated from family and friends by the call of duty. May the joy of Easter fill our hearts with gratitude for our freedom, love for our neighbors, and hope for peace.

Laura and I wish you a Happy Easter.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Proclamation 7876—Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy, 2005

March 24, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Well before modern Greece gained her independence, the ancient Athenians adopted democratic principles that guided their society. These principles inspired our Founding Fathers to proclaim the imperative of self-government as they worked to build our great Nation. America's love for liberty has deep roots in the spirit of Greece. On Greek Independence Day, we celebrate our special ties of friendship, history, and shared values with Greece.

Our country has welcomed generations of Greek immigrants, and we are grateful for their talents, wisdom, and creativity. We honor the Greek spirit that values family and education, public service and faith. Greek Americans have made a mark in every field—enhancing our culture, enriching our commerce, and defending our freedom. Their strong record of public service has also

strengthened our democracy, and their contributions have made America a better place.

As we address the challenges of the 21st century, the United States and Greece remain committed partners in the vital work of advancing freedom and democracy. Our two Nations are founded on shared ideals of liberty, and we are working together to advance those ideals across the world today.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 25, 2005, as Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 28, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 29.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 19

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, the President met with Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff Joe Hagin to discuss legislation concerning Theresa Marie Schiavo.

March 20

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the afternoon.

March 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Tucson, AZ. While en route aboard Air Force One, he met with Representatives Bob Beauprez and Joel Hefley of Colorado and Representatives Trent Franks and John B. Shadegg of Arizona. Upon arrival in Tucson, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Russell Gursky.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Denver, CO, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Harold Brewer.

In the evening, the President traveled to Albuquerque, NM.

March 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, arriving in the afternoon.

March 23

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Waco, TX.

Later in the morning, at the Armstrong Browning Library at Baylor University, the President met with President Vicente Fox of Mexico and Prime Minister Paul Martin of Canada.

In the afternoon, the President and President Fox and Prime Minister Martin traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX. Later, they had a working lunch and toured the ranch.

The President announced his intention to nominate Timothy D. Adams to be Under Secretary of the Treasury (International Affairs).

The President announced his intention to designate Arnold I. Havens as Acting Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

March 24

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.